



U.S. Department of Justice

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

MACON: Maxwell Wood, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia; John W. Long, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General; Jerry L. Cooper, Field Administrator, Southern Service Center, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; and Ronald K. Johnson, Director of Driver Services for the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety; announce the sentencing on October 13th in Federal District Court in Macon of **THOMAS R. DUKE**, owner of **TTT TRUCK DRIVER'S SCHOOL, INC.**, located at 131 Debbie Court in Macon, Georgia. **TTT TRUCK DRIVER'S SCHOOL, INC.** ("TTT"), the corporation, was also sentenced.

DUKE was sentenced to fifty-one (51) months imprisonment, three (3) years supervised release following imprisonment, and was ordered to pay restitution totaling \$64,691.64 to the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety and to several former students of the TTT Truck Driver's School. The corporation was sentenced to five (5) years probation and was also ordered to pay restitution totaling \$64,691.64 jointly with **DUKE**. In a related matter, **TERENCE E. HALEY** was sentenced by the Court on August 5, 2004, receiving a sentence of five (5) years probation and he was ordered to pay restitution jointly with **DUKE** and **TTT** in the

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amount of \$15,904.66 to the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety.

DUKE and **TTT** were each convicted of Conspiracy, multiple counts of Making False Statements in a Matter within the Jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and multiple counts of Wire Fraud, following a week-long trial in April of this year. Evidence presented at trial showed that **DUKE** and **TTT** conspired with Terence E. Haley to falsify the skills tests of 623 **TTT** students. The fraudulent skills test forms were thereafter submitted by the students to the State of Georgia to obtain commercial drivers licenses to which the students were not entitled. Evidence at trial and sentencing also showed that **DUKE** and **TTT** committed fraud in relation to student loans totaling \$3,106,773.30 obtained for 433 **TTT** students. Terence E. Haley had earlier pled guilty to a charge of Conspiracy, and he testified at the trial of this matter.

Department of Transportation Inspector General Kenneth Mead stated, "We have identified fraud in the commercial driver's license program as one of the nation's most serious transportation safety issues. This sentencing should send a strong signal that we will not tolerate fraudulent schemes to evade testing requirements. We must make every effort to ensure that our nation's truck drivers are properly trained and tested before they are allowed to operate commercial vehicles on our highways. Our joint efforts will help protect the traveling public."

FMCSA Administrator Annette M. Sandberg added, "MCSA will continue to work with State licensing authorities to help put an end to CDL fraud and abuse. It's another way the States and the Federal government cooperate to improve highway safety."

United States Attorney Maxwell Wood stated, "we are appreciative of the hard work of the investigators on this case which was a tedious investigation and we are glad their hard work has born fruit." Assistant United States Attorney Paul C. McCommon III prosecuted the case for

the government. For additional information, contact United States Attorney Maxwell Wood or Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul McCommon through Sue McKinney at 478-621-2602 or visit our web site at www.usdoj.gov/usao/gam.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE


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